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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY

SECRET

To: The Acting Secretary
Through: S/S
From: G - Robert Murphy
Subject: Memorandum for President on NATO Exercises

Attached is the memorandum on the forthcoming NATO exercises which you asked to have prepared for the President.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memorandum. /S/ CHRISTIAN A. HERTER
Concurrences:

EUR - Mr. Merchant

LSP

1/16/59 1059
RA - Mr. Timmons

RA

CSD/ISA - Capt. W. D. Millar (in substance)
X per RA

Attachment:

Memorandum for President.

(2)

File Elects Ad. Janice

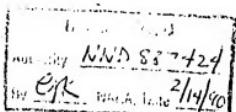
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FEB 20 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Extensive NATO Exercise in mid-April.

As summarized in the enclosure, for your information, are the plans for a NATO exercise, to be known as "Avalanche", to be conducted throughout western Europe in mid-April. The dates (April 13-17) were selected well before the Berlin crisis began, but I think this exercise is well-timed from the political point of view, and should have a salutary effect on the western European public and on the other side.

/S/ CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

Acting Secretary

Enclosure:

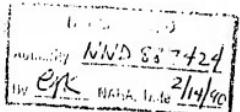
Extensive NATO Exercise in mid-April.

S/S-RO

FEB 20 1959

A TRUE COPY OF
SIGNED ORIGINALLY

A.J.C:KA:JYHilliar:adm
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extensive NATO Exercise in mid-April.

1. Nature of the exercise. This is a combined joint atomic and air defense exercise. It is designed to practice SHAEF's atomic strike plan under simulated wartime conditions and to exercise the over-all air defence system of allied Command Europe. Air and ground units, including atomic delivery and air defense forces, will participate on a "live" basis, actually flying missions & deploying. There will be considerable activity in the air and on the ground, and the public will be well aware of the exercise.

The Sixth Fleet and SAC are to be represented by David-
ing "Enterprise" aircraft.

2. Area and duration. The exercise will cover all over allied Command Europe for a period of 12 hours some time between April 13 and 17.

3. Mediterranean and Southern region air defense exercises.

Coincident with CCP sailing, Allied forces in the Mediterranean will conduct an exercise (Exercise Alert) running from Portugal to 43° N in the Black Sea.

At the same time an extensive "live" air defense exercise (Project Fox) will take place in the southern region.

4. Publicity. SHAEF has been proceeding on the basis that the projected exercises should be given publicity well in advance, beginning about March 1, to insure that the nature of the exercises is understood by the public. We have advised General Horstede's political advisor that we fully agree with the policy of having advance extensive publicity.

5. Notification to NATO countries. Notification of the exercise was conveyed through SHAEF military channels some months ago to Secretary-General Spaak and all NATO defense ministers.

EUR:RA:JYMillar:adm
2/19/59

EUR - Mr. Merchant
RA - Mr. Timmons

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